

WAC 197-11-960 Environmental checklist.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Purpose of checklist:

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), chapter 43.21C RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

Instructions for applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Governmental agencies use this checklist to determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant, requiring preparation of an EIS. Answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can.

You must answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. In most cases, you should be able to answer the questions from your own observations or project plans without the need to hire experts. If you really do not know the answer, or if a question does not apply to your proposal, write "do not know" or "does not apply." Complete answers to the questions now may avoid unnecessary delays later.

Some questions ask about governmental regulations, such as zoning, shoreline, and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:

Complete this checklist for nonproject proposals, even though questions may be answered "does not apply." IN ADDITION, complete the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D).

For nonproject actions, the references in the checklist to the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proposer," and "affected geographic area," respectively.

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

Reeser Creek Wetland Restoration

2. Name of applicant: **Tri-State Steelheaders**

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person: **Brian Burns PO Box 1375 Walla Walla, WA 99362 (509) 529-3543**

4. Date checklist prepared **07-20-2010**

5. Agency requesting checklist: **WDFW, David Karl WDFW Watershed Steward 1340 N. 13th Ave Walla Walla, WA 99362 (509) 527-4138**

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable): **Project construction will occur in August and September 2010**

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain. **No**

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal. **An assessment of the project site and wetland study (including hydrologic data) has been completed by Ducks Unlimited. Wetland soil type testing is done and a wetland design is developed.**

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain. **Yes, a JARPA has been filled out to apply for USACE Permit, WDFW HPA, and County critical areas permit.**

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

**WW County - CAO #372 (Critical Area Report)
USACE 404 Permit Clean Water Act - Dredge/Fill
Ecology 401 Water Quality Cert.
HPA
ESA consultation
Cultural Resources
SEPA checklist**

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

The project is a restoration of a jurisdictional wetland in the headwaters of Reser Creek. The wetland has been degraded and has filled in due to soil erosion caused by conventional agricultural practices, but has persisted due to the wetland soil types and the natural springs that maintain saturated soils and some standing water. Currently, "minimum" and "no-till" farming practices have eliminated the erosion problems that caused degradation of the subject wetland. The project is designed to excavate the wetland to create a diverse bottom elevation consisting of three deep > 5ft deep pools, with some smaller > 3ft pools and associated shallow water habitats and marshes. The entire, approximately 6 acre wetland, will be surrounded by a 21 acre conservation easement. The wetland will be planted with native vegetation and the surrounding easement will be planted in native riparian woody vegetation and a native grass buffer. Plans provided.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit

applications related to this checklist. **The project is located in Township 6 North, Range 36 east, sections 1 and 2. To find the property take Reser Rd, approximately 2 miles South and East of School Road on the East side of the City of Walla Walla, WA. The site is on the south side of Reser Rd as the road turns 90 degrees east.**

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B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. **Earth**

a. General description of the site (circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)? **20%**

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c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland. **Prime farmland except where the wetland is – the wetland a black alkali soils and wetland soil types. The wetland has been impacted in the past by farming practices, at some time it appears as if there was an attempt to farm over the wetland, but to no avail. Today there is a large wetland area that has been severely degraded. The project is to restore the wetland and establish a 20 acre conservation easement around the wetland.**

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe. **There has been a history of erosion caused by conventional tillage, however, more than 80 % of the farming practices have converted to “no till “ practices and have eliminated much of the erosion problems.**

e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill. **The project is mostly an excavation project, however, there will be a small rock spillway built at the top end of the wetland complex.**

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe. **Controlling erosion is a primary goal in developing a wetland restoration, however, some erosion is bound to occur in an excavated site through rain events or wind events. All best management practices will be employed during construction, i.e. the use of jute mats and/or silt fencing. After construction, the project site will be planted with native vegetation and grasses.**

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)? **0%**

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any: **The use of silt fences, jute mat and revegetation of native wetland, riparian and associated upland grasses.**

2. Air

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known. **Some dust and emissions from heavy equipment used in the restoration.**

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe. **No**

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any: **None**

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3. Water

a. Surface:

1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into. **The wetland is located at the headwaters of Reser Creek. The restoration of the wetlands will improve the condition of the local aquifer and possible enhance flows into Reser Creek. Reeser Ck is a tributary of Russell Creek, which is a tributary to Yellowhawk Creek, to the Walla Walla R., to the Columbia R.**

2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans. **Yes, the project will require excavation of the degraded wetland. Wetland scientist and engineers have developed the project. The goal is to re-establish a naturally functioning wetland with a conservation easement buffer surrounding the restored wetland. I've attached the final design done by Ducks Unlimited - DU will also provide wetland plant revegetation and the PPG group will be reestablishing native grasses and woody vegetation as part of the restoration process.**

3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material. **Excavation will remove approximately 5,000 cubic yards of material. The spoils will be piled up on site in mounds to diversify habitat within the restored wetland - see final designs. There is a large upland spoil mound and seven smaller spoil mounds within the wetland elevations. The spoils will be planted**

in native grasses and maintained for at least a season to control weeds, then planted with woody vegetation. All vegetation will be native to Washington State and planted in appropriate planting zones. The species include Black Hawthorne, Willows (Pacific, Coyote, Peachleaf), Woods Rose, Elderberry, Alder (white), Choke Cherry, Water Birch, Red Ozier Dogwood, and Mock Orange.

4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known. **No.**

5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan. **No.**

6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge. **No.**

b. Ground:

1) Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known. **No.**

2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals. . . ; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve. **None.**

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c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe. **No water runoff associated with the wetland restoration.**

2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe. **No.**

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any: **None.**

4. Plants

a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site:

X — deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other

— evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other

— shrubs

X — grass

— pasture

— crop or grain

X — wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other

X — water plants: sedges

— other types of vegetation

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered? **Approximate 1 acre of vegetation will be removed during the excavation, but the entire project site will be re-planted.**

c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site. **None.**

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any: **The wetland will be planted with native wetland plants i.e sedges, rushes, the next level will be planted with riparian plants i.e willows, dogwood, and the third level will be planted into a native bunchgrass mix i.e. Great Basin rye, Idaho fescue.**

5. Animals

a. Circle any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other:

mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:

fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other:

b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site. **None.**

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c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain. **This area is at least in some aspects part of migration routes for Waterfowl and Neotropical Migratory Birds.**

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any: **The project will restore wetland and associated upland habitat, the project will improve conditions for many native wildlife species. The restoration will serve as good habitat for migrating birds and resident wildlife species.**

6. Energy and natural resources

- a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc. **Diesel or gasoline will be used in the equipment used during the restoration. No other energy will be utilized.**
- b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe. **No.**
- c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any: **None.**

7. Environmental health

- a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe. **No.**

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required. **None.**

2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any: **None**

b. Noise

- 1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?

Very little noise, maybe some farm equipment.

- 2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site. **The use of heavy equipment during the restoration during business hours from 8AM to 6 PM.**

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- 3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any: **None.**

8. Land and shoreline use

- a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? **Agriculture**

b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe. **Yes, Dry land wheat production. This is premium farmland.**

c. Describe any structures on the site. **None.**

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what? **None**

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site? **Agricultural**

f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site? **Open Space**

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site? **NA**

h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify. **This site is identified in the Walla Walla Critical Areas Plan.**

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project? **None**

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace? **None**

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any: **None**

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l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any: **The project will include a permanent conservation easement, that is not in conflict with existing or projected land uses and plans.**

9. **Housing**

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. **None**

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. **None**

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any: **None**

10. **Aesthetics**

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed? **NA**

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed? **None**

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any: **None**

11. **Light and glare**

a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur? **None**

b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views? **No**

c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal? **None**

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any: **None**

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12. **Recreation**

a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity? **None**

b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe. **No**

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any: **None**

13. **Historic and cultural preservation**

- a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe. **None. The project is mitigation for US Hwy 12 wetland impacts and the project sponsors felt that it was important to conduct a cultural survey and get clearance for the project. If there are any cultural findings the project will follow recommendations or guidance from WA SHIPO and/or Local Tribal Archeological Staff.**
- b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site. **None.**
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any: **A cultural survey and assessment is being conducted for the project construction.**

14. **Transportation**

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any. **The project is located outside of the city and the rural roads do not incur much traffic.**
- b. Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop? **No.**
- c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate? **None.**
- d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private). **No.**

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- e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe. **None.**
- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur. **None.**
- g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any: **None.**

15. **Public services**

- a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe. **None.**
- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any. **None.**

16. **Utilities**

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other. **None.**
- b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed. **None.**

C. SIGNATURE

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: 

Date Submitted: 4-23-2010